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ABSTRACT

Books in the Opposing Viewpoints series challenge readers to question their own opinions and assumptions. By reading carefully balanced views, readers confront new ideas on the topic of interest. Although some experts believe that the problem of teenage pregnancy has been overstated, other recent studies have led many people to believe that something must be done to address a disturbing trend. Many commentators, especially conservatives, believe that welfare encourages teenage pregnancy, while others disagree that welfare is a cause. Many of these critics point out that teenage pregnancy is a response to poverty and an environment lacking in educational and economic opportunities. The approach adopted by Congress effectively endorses the conservative response to teenage pregnancy. Many argue that removing the safety net of welfare will only result in more poverty and suffering. Divergent viewpoints on adolescent pregnancy and related issues of welfare reform are presented in 27 essays grouped into the following sections: (1) "Is Teenage Pregnancy a Serious Problem?"; (2) "What Factors Contribute to Teenage Pregnancy?"; (3) "How Can Teenage Pregnancy Be Prevented?"; and (4) "What New Initiatives Would Reduce Teen Pregnancy?" Each section contains a bibliography of periodical references. A list of 18 organizations to contact for further information is provided. (Contains 34 references.) (SLD)

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